GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:358
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
Gram Sabha Meetings
Meena Shri Arjunlal

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meetings of the gram sabhas are not being conducted regularly in accordance with the provisions made in 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether any action was taken by the Government in this regard; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (d) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 358 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017 REGARDING GRAM SABHA MEETINGS

(a) to (d): Article 243(b) of the Constitution defines Gram Sabha as a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of a Panchayat at the village level. Article 243A clarifies inter-alia that the Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and performs such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide. The statutory provisions relating to minimum attendance, quorum for convening Gram Sabha or frequency of meetings of Gram Sabhas vary from State to State as provided in their respective Panchayati Raj Acts. To make the Gram Sabha more effective, this Ministry issued an advisory to the States on 08/12/2011 for ensuring conduct of minimum four meetings of the Gram Sabhas in a year on specified dates.

This Ministry has actively promoted the crucial role of the Gram Sabha for the robust and vibrant functioning of Panchayati Raj system. Ministry has from time to time, issued comprehensive guidelines, advisories, instructions etc for the effective functioning of the Gram Sabha and for holding regular meetings of Gram Sabhas.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj also incentivizes the Panchayats through Panchayat Awards. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP) is given annually to the Gram Panchayat in a State/Union Territory for its good performance through Gram Sabhas as recommended by the respective State Governments/Union Territories. Holding of regular Gram Sabha meetings is also a parameter for giving Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP).

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